

Testimony Submitted by Yale-New Haven Hospital
in support of Proposed S.B. No. 745 AN ACT CONCERNING TWEED
NEW HAVEN AIRPORT and Proposed H.B. No. 6270 AN ACT
CONCERNING TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT

Transportation and Commerce Committees
February 18, 2009

On behalf of Yale-New Haven Hospital, thank you providing an opportunity to submit testimony in support of two bills before you today concerning the Tweed New Haven Airport (Proposed S.B. No. 745 and Proposed H.B. No. 6270, both titled AN ACT CONCERNING TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT.)

As the second largest employer in New Haven and an active member of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Growth Partnership, and the Regional Leadership Council, Yale-New Haven Hospital has joined its partners in designating Tweed New Haven as the #1 economic development priority of our region. We believe that air service to and from Tweed is a critical element in achieving sustained economic growth in the southern part of our state.

We are cognizant of the difficult choices you will make this year in shaping the budget, though we urge your continued support of Tweed New Haven Airport Authority's request for \$1.5 million for airport operations. The air service that Tweed offers is a component of the overall air service system in New England, designed to meet the traveling public's needs. Tweed also plays a significant role in helping Yale-New Haven and the patients who rely on us for critical services such as organ transplantation, as many of the organs that are used for this service are flown through Tweed New Haven Airport. Further, with the scheduled opening of the Smilow Cancer Hospital later this year, we believe that maintaining public air travel service to New Haven will become even more important for the patients and families we serve.

The State's Transportation Strategy Board has recognized Tweed's role by endorsing a strategy of support for commercial air service at both Tweed and Bradley. As Tweed continues to improve its infrastructure and implement its Master Plan, we urge you to continue supporting its operations.

Thank you for your consideration and support.